

‘Theekeningen’ / ‘wehavemetthedaylightbefore’.

This is a music video of the band ‘Space siren’ with the song ‘wehavemetthedaylightbefore’. The Music is in the genre indie-pop. The song starts very dreamy. It builds on towards more instruments and gets more overwhelming. After 2 minutes it suddenly collapse in chaos and noise. After 50 seconds the piece returns and the dreamy feeling is there again, but now with a rougher edge. It ends with sweets tingling sounds.

In this video different techniques of animation are blend together.

It starts with an photo-animation of a real action, which is called stop-motion. Drawn animation and puppet animation are also used.

The title ‘Theekeningen’ reveals already the process you will see in this video.

In Dutch *thee* means tea, *tekeningen* means drawings. Combining these two you have ‘*theekeningen*’ aka ‘tea drawings’.

You see the process of the tea-drawing from the making of the stain with a tea-bag, the stain evolves into a drawing of two creatures. The creatures come to live on paper and try to escape from the it. When they do, they drip into a 3d space where they grown into the creatures they were on paper again.

A girl is involved in this story from the beginning. She made the stains and held the piece of paper were the creatures escaped from.

Both the girl as the creatures are first scared of each other but overcome their fear and become friends. While walking away they turn around to stimulate other tea-drawings to escape from their paper and join them.

Observation animation

Over the years I have been writing out my thoughts and observations while traveling by train.

In this animation project you hear a voiceover telling the observations while the charcoal drawings support the story. Most of the time you see exact what the voice tells you, but some moments it is not supporting the story.

When the voice over tells you there is a girl who bought a electric toothbrush, you do not see a girl with an electric toothbrush, but you see a big mouth with an electric toothbrush brushing the teeth.

The told observations are about small things in the train; the shoes off a girl, drinking out of bottle, a small girl eating a banana. Combined with observation out of the window. A returning subject is that it is a hot day.

The transitions of the subjects/scenes are either a hard cut but more often by transformations of the one object into the other. A sheep turns into a bottle, a swan into a streetlight. This is a technique which animation is known for: tranformations.

The charcoal drawings are evolving/methamorphoses

in the other subjects. The voiceover who is telling the observation is very soft, almost whispering which gives it a very intimate atmosphere. The vulnerability of the medium charcoal adds to this.

Portrait of an empty house

This is a stop-motion animation which takes place in an old almost empty house. It uses a Plexiglas screen/frame (140x200 cm) to put a drawn animation on. This gives the space an extra layer.

At first you see a garden in black and white. You see the leafs of the trees move, but in a very choppy way. Using the stop-motion technique gives this effect because there is time in between one picture and the other.

A wooden framework with Plexiglas is pushed into the screen by a girl. The title of the work appears on the frame while the frame moves, the text stays in the same place. It is a drawing on the screen. The scenery changes. We are in an old house. The girl pushes the frame in front of a big old brown closet. On the Plexiglas objects are drawn who appear to be standing in the closet.

When the frame moves towards the sofa, you see a drawing of a woman sitting on the sofa on the Plexiglas. She is doing something with her hands, but stops to bend over and take a cup and drinks out of it and puts it back. The frame is pushed toward a big brown chair. A male figure is sitting on it and walks away the moment he noticed he is on the frame. There is a cut to a new scene. You see a very old kitchen from the 70 's.

When the frame comes in, you see someone opening the kitchen cabinet and taking something out of it. The frame moves towards the sink, where you see a woman in a dress on her back. She passes a bowl to a smaller girl who is next to her. While the girl eats out of the bowl, the frame is moving more in the girl's direction. The frame is then pushed out of the kitchen. That is where the animation ends.

The girl pushing the frame is only actively involved with the drawing in the beginning. In the rest of it she is just passively pushing the frame around. It is a 40 second stop-motion animation without sound.